



Culture and Values

"Society seems to be growing steadily crazier. And maybe it doesn't just seem to be. Maybe it actually is growing crazier"

- Glenn Harlan Reynolds

"The Social Media Upheaval"

By: Yavapai County Republican Party

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Key Points:

- Culture is the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or group.
- Politics is an artifact of culture: what you get in politics is what you have in the culture.
- Republicans believe in Freedom, Liberty, Equality, Democracy, Individualism, the Rule of Law, Capitalism, and Nationalism.
- Republicans stand by the Founding Father's "Founding Virtues" of Industriousness, Honesty, Marriage, and Reliiosity.
- Rabbi Dennis Prager provides possible answers to the question, "Why are there so many mass shootings today?"
- A YouGov poll conducted for the Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness found younger Americans are "Ignorant Anti-Americans" as the love of and respect for America is declining in each new generation.
- Who can provide a solution for health care? Who to protect the safety of Americans at the border and inland? Protect family values? Appoint the wisest citizens to our courts? Tax and spend wisely? Protect the sanctity of life? We know these people; we live, eat, pray, and work with them daily.
- We, the Yavapai County Republican Party accept our responsibility to change this ignorance and attitude of younger generations.

Culture is defined in the dictionary as "the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group". If culture is the sum of all influences within a society, politics is an artifact of the culture; what you get in politics is what you have in the culture. As a nation we are not politically divided; our political divide is the sum of all the divides and the breakdown of long-standing values within the society. What we have now is a

cultural divide, a purposeful breakdown of the various “customs, social institutions and achievements of our society”. To some in our country, America is not a great, but a flawed nation, it is simply a seriously flawed nation that cannot be fixed.

This writer recently moved from California to Arizona. Why? Well, one good reason was that I was reminded almost daily that I am a member of nine “hate groups” as defined by the “Social Justice” left: I am an old, white, Catholic, Republican, Pro-life, cis-gendered, gun owning, heterosexual male. Yes, maybe things are growing crazier.

America does not hate this ferociously; the left does.

But why today? We have always had differences of opinions, beliefs, and values in our country; it is, after all, why we have two major political parties and numerous minor ones. Well, let’s look first at our Republican values, then review the virtues our Founding Fathers saw as the foundation of our country and then look at why this “craziness” seems to be happening.

Arizona Republicans believe in:

Freedom AKA Liberty

Equality

Democracy

Individualism

Rule of Law

Nationalism

Capitalism

We will explore these values in later papers. Please feel free to provide input at halbray5987@gmail.com.

Our Republican Values and the “The Founding Virtues”

In his book, “Coming Apart, the State of White America 1960-2010”, Charles Murray details the cultural decline of white America (he chose “white America” so he could avoid the vicious attacks of racism from the left that followed his book “The Bell Curve” in 1994). Mr. Murray details the argument from the Founding Fathers that America and the Constitution is based on four “virtues”: Industriousness, Honesty, Marriage, and Religiosity and believed that America could only be govern when the population shared these values. Mr. Murray quotes from Francis Grund, a German writer commenting on his two decades of living in and observing American culture in 1825:

“The American Constitution is remarkable for its simplicity; but it can only suffice a people habitually correct in their actions, and would be utterly inadequate to the wants of a different nation. Change the domestic habits of the Americans, their religious devotion, and their high respect for morality and it will not be necessary to change single letter of the Constitution in order to vary the whole form of government”.

Or as Benjamin Franklin observed “only a virtuous people are capable of freedom; as nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters...A virtuous and laborious people may be cheaply governed”.

George Washington , in his farewell address, reports Murray, said “virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government”. Or as Murray comments “the founders recognized that for a society to remain free, self-government refers first of all to individual citizens governing their own behavior”.

While commenting on the “Founding Virtues”, Murray also notes there are several other virtues that could be included, including frugality, philanthropy, and self-reliance.

Industriousness: Industry includes a “cluster of qualities that were themselves important to the founding of the country: freedom to speak one’s mind, to practice religion as one saw fit, to be taxed only with representation, that life was hard and making a better life for one’s family required working hard.

Honesty: This trait the Founding Fathers thought was critical in making a limited government work; without honesty only a police state could make a free market system work. For Thomas Jefferson: “honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom”; George Washington included honesty in several lists we compiled of virtues necessary in the American people.

Marriage: The founders considered marriage, the family, the “bedrock” of society. The only question was if marriage, the institution, was the primary virtue or if the morality within marriage was essential to the functioning of the society.

Religiosity: Although they differed in the practice of their religion (Jefferson a Deist, Franklin used the language of religion but rarely attended church, John Adams was a Unitarian, Hamilton and Madison were Anglicans, and Washington was “evasive” about his views on traditional Christian doctrine) they believed religion was essential to the health of the nation. Washington, says Murray, expressed their beliefs explicitly in his Farewell address: “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable...reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle”

We, the Republican Party, take these virtues as the foundation of our culture.

Rabbi Dennis Prager: “Why are there so many mass shootings”

Come forward to today and there are writers who examine the Founding Father's beliefs, sometimes in surprising ways. Rabbi and conservative author Dennis Prager examined virtues and our culture in relationship to the mass shootings since the 1950s in his article "Why so many mass shootings?".

Prager asks why have we had a large increase in mass shootings? He reviews the findings in the 2007 book, *Mass Murder in the United States: A History*, by Grant Duwe. The author, the Director of Research for the Minnesota Dept. of Corrections, found that every decade before the 1970s in the 20th century had fewer than 10 mass public shootings. In the 1950s there was one; in the 1960s six. In the 1970s the number rose to thirteen; in the 1980s that number increased to 32. In the 1990s, the number rose to 42. As for this century he reports the FBI has indicated "mass shootings have risen drastically in the past half-dozen years".

He then asks **why the dramatic increase when the ubiquity of guns was the same?**

Prager found that America is now more ethnically diverse and much less religious. Boys have far fewer male role models in their lives and many boys are raised in one parent households. Fewer men marry and normal boy behavior is largely held in contempt ("toxic male" behavior) by their feminist teachers, principals, and therapists.

Ethnic diversity: Prager found that "the countries that have the fewest mass murders and lowest homicide rates are the least ethnically diverse-such as Japan and nearly all European countries" Similarly, the American states that have low homicide rates are least ethnically and racially diverse (the four lowest states are New Hampshire, North Dakota, Maine, and Idaho).

Prager hypothesizes that American states could have low homicide rates if "Americans were Americanized and most black males grew up with fathers". (The Wall Street Journal reports that 71% of African-American infants are born to unmarried women, compared with 29% for white women").

Religiosity: Prager states that the left welcomes and, in fact, seeks the end of Christianity in America (remember he is a Jewish Rabbi). And statistics show that church attendance is down substantially in the past 50 years. The Rabbi asks this question: "What percentage of American murders attend church weekly?"

Boy's needs for Fathers: Prager quotes President Barak Obama from a 2008 speech:

"Children who grow up without fathers are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime, nine times more likely to drop out of school, and 20 times more likely to end up in prison".

Marriage: Prager states, "Nearly all men who murder are single. And their number is increasing."

Culture of Grievance: The Rabbi adds one more contributing factor to the murder rate: our "Culture of Grievance".

Prager theorizes that in the past people understood that life was hard and they had to work to live their lives. Now, in the past half century it has been drummed into American's minds the belief that their difficulties are caused by American society, especially "sexism, racism, and patriarchy, and the more aggrieved people are, the more their consciences are dulled".

YouGov Poll: Why are so many Millennials Ignorant Anti- Americans?

The organization YouGov conducted a poll for the Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness of 1,000 people aged 14 and up about their knowledge of the country's history and institutions, and their patriotic feelings about the U.S. Their basic findings were that both the millennials (age 22-27) and Gen Z (age 14-21) are less likely to love and respect the country and are less informed about American history and more likely to embrace socialism than older generations. The findings include:

Proud to be an American? More than a quarter of millennials and a fifth of Gen Z say they are not proud to be an American. Among boomers, only 8% say they are not proud.

History of America: When asked if America had a history to be proud of the yes vote declines with age: 94% of those over 73, 85% of Boomers, 72% of Gen X, 65% of millennials, 54% of Gen Z generation still in high school.

More than half of high schoolers say they don't consider themselves an American Patriot, a third of millennials are not patriots. Among boomers only 13% don't consider themselves patriots.

The survey also found that younger generations approved of athletes kneeling as protest during the national anthem and are less likely to show respect for the flag.

Is America Racist and Sexist? Yes, says the younger generations. 60% of millennials say the U.S. is sexist and 64% say it is racist; More than half of college aged Gen Z agree; the college age Gen Z participants also think America is more racist than other countries. Contrast this with Boomers; only 46% say the country is sexist and 42% racist.

Is America a Great Country? More than 8 in 10 Boomers agree that America is the greatest country in the world. This percentage drops to 54% among millennials and 51% of high schoolers.

Will America continue to be great? The share of those who think America will continue to be great drops from 70% among Boomers to 53% among millennials, to less than half among Gen Z.

Almost a third of millennials say America isn't a great country today, with 14% saying it never was.

Asked if the world was safer when America is strong, 93% of Boomer said yes; the millennial share dropped to 68%, with high schoolers coming in at 66%.

Which is better for America's future: capitalism or socialism? Overall, 61% said capitalism. Among millennials and college aged people, 53% prefer capitalism, while half of high schoolers prefer socialism.

Other findings:

The survey leaders concluded that the basic reason for the low poll scores is that schools are failing to teach young people about U.S. History (I would add parents). The survey found that 87% of high school students flunked a 5-question test on America history. High schoolers also had the lowest scores on who is on Mt. Rushmore, and only 11% could name any rights in the first Amendment. And, finally, more than half of today's high schoolers believe Barak Obama was a more consequential president than George Washington.

"We were totally unprepared for what our national survey reveals: an epidemic of anti-Americanism", said Nick Adams, who launched the foundation responsible for the survey. A major fraction of an entire generation has been indoctrinated by teachers starting in grade school that America is what's wrong with the world".

In conclusion

We know by our daily observations and encounters that our culture has changed and will continue to change (We will explore these changes, these issues in later papers). Some say the Left has irreversibly changed America; Barak Obama would say he has "transformed" America and remember for those young citizens Barak Obama was the President they knew through their teenage years and introduction to adulthood.

We disagree. We believe our Founding Fathers were correct in their beliefs and those beliefs are represented vividly in our Constitution and Bill of Rights. We further believe that today's culture shows us that "government and civil society", or "A village" as Hilary Clinton characterized it, cannot substitute for stable, intact families and a culture of religion, honesty/morality and industrialness.

A solution for health care? Who to protect the safety of Americans at the border and inland? Protect family values? Appoint the wisest citizens to our courts? Tax and spend wisely? Protect the sanctity of life? We know these people; we live, eat, pray, and work with them daily.

We believe that America is a great, but flawed nation; a nation in constant search of a remedy for those flaws. We believe that tomorrow's generations will see abortion, "gender identity" and other current cultural mis-steps as destructive and wrong as we now see slavery.

The challenge is ours. The time is now. Our values, the Founding Fathers values, have prepared us for the fight. We join with the President to "Make America Great Again".

This article written by Yavapai County Republican Party member Hal Bray. Mr. Bray moved to Prescott in April of this year. Mr. Bray was active in Republican Party and taxpayer organizations in California and is the founder of East County Voters for Equal Protection, a

community activist group founded to adequately fund his local fire district without new taxes. Hal is also a former member of the NAACP. He is retired from AT&T where he was a Sales Director in the Government & Education Market.